

## **VEGETATION AND WILDLIFE**

Overall, the information contained in the technical appendix is complete and adequate for production of the PEIR/EIS, although the report does not conform to the outline. With minor exceptions the executive summary of the affected environment provides an appropriate level summary of the technical report for inclusion in the PEIS/EIR. The report includes a discussion of Special-Status species. The body of the report contains a high level of detail and good support for the impacts analysis. The graphics are easy to read. The Executive Summary of the impacts report follows the report format. Impacts and corresponding mitigation measures are clearly described and even numbered, which makes the impact analysis easy to follow and makes it easy to trace impacts and mitigations from the summary table to the text. Significant unavoidable impacts are addressed.

## Conformance to Outline

*Vegetation and Wildlife*

### ~~Terrestrial Resources~~

#### Affected Environment

- TOC and report does not follow outline.
- For Section IV, Env Setting, Historical Perspective is not done by region.
- Needs sig. revision to match outline.

#### Environmental Consequences

- Missing Section 5.

**REVIEW COMMENTS**  
**CALFED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM PEIS TECHNICAL REPORTS**  
**VEGETATION AND WILDLIFE**

***AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT***

No.	Page/Para	Comment
1	General	Overall, the information contained in the technical appendix is complete and adequate for production of a PEIS. Information from the later text can be adapted and summarized to allow the executive summary text to tell a more complete project 'story.' This report reads like a technical appendix, however, if a part of it is going to be exported to the PEIS, (i.e., the Exec Summary), it should be written more accessibly, for a wider audience. I think the target reading level for a publicly distributed EIS is about 8 <sup>th</sup> grade. So words like administer, various, implementation should drop out and a simpler approach taken to describing the planned project.
2	Executive Summaries	Summarize the information in the introductions. A lot of the text is taken verbatim from the introduction, and it could be shortened. If readers really want to know where the information came from they can dig up the technical appendix and find it there.
3	General	The maps are well done and add to the readers understanding of the text. However, the tables contain a large amount of information that could use additional interpretation in the text. For all of the tables the question should be asked- what information do we really want the readers to draw from this table. A brief statement should be made in the text highlighting that information so that the readers don't miss it. This is especially important for the long tables, but also applies to the short ones. For example, a statement could be added to page 31, Section C. Saying something about which of these communities are rarest in terms of distribution or size.
4	General	Remove the dropped alternatives. the text has been marked where alternatives should be removed, but in the consequences section, some of the variations on the alternatives have been generalized (e.g., 2a-2e). These portions of the text should be checked to make sure that they don't contain information that is specific to the dropped alternatives.

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***ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS/CONSEQUENCES***

No.	Page/Para	Comment
1	General	The impact/benefit analyses (i.e., 5-1 through 5-5) are clearly written and thorough, but the paragraphs that describe both benefits and impacts to major resource issue areas (e.g., Impacts and Benefits to Habitat Quality and Pattern) should more clearly describe whether the impact or benefit carries more weight. For consistency and clarity, the weightier of the two should be mentioned in a concluding sentence as is done for the other paragraphs in the section.
2	General	The use of example special status species (i.e., Swainson's Hawk and giant garter snake) and corresponding sample mitigation adds to the understandability of the text, which is good. The connection of the sample mitigation to the species could be clarified further. Similar examples/mitigations would add to the understandability of the natural communities and critical habitat resource areas.
3	General	Clarify that significant impacts are adverse.